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Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak shakes hands with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as they meet at the presidential palace in Cairo yesterday.

## PM, Mubarak agree peace process will continue

STEVE RODAN  
CAIRO

DETERMINED to avert an Arab-Israeli crisis, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Hosni Mubarak agreed yesterday that the peace process would continue, with Israeli implementation of agreements with the Palestinians and negotiations based on the Madrid conference formula.

Israeli negotiations with the Palestinians and Syria, bilateral issues, and regional affairs such as terrorism and economic development. Mubarak and Netanyahu were then each joined by an aide who took notes, and later they met their delegations for lunch.

## Terrorist bombing not discounted

MARILYN HENRY  
and news agencies  
NEW YORK

RESCUERS pulled more than 100 burned bodies from the waters off Long Island yesterday, as an FBI anti-terrorism team investigated what caused a TWA Boeing 747 to explode over the Atlantic shortly after takeoff Wednesday night. All 228 people aboard were apparently killed.

President Bill Clinton and Attorney-General Janet Reno warned against jumping to conclusions about what caused the plane to crash. But Congressman Charles Schumer of New York said the FBI told him there were two possibilities: "Either that there was a bomb, or an engine exploded and set a fuel tank on fire."

Robert Francis, the National Transportation Safety Board's vice chairman, said there is no evidence the crash was not an accident, though he added, "That's where we start in every case like this."

Francis said he had no information about a report that one of the plane's two "black boxes" had been recovered.

A law enforcement official said that based on eyewitness accounts from Air National Guard pilots, the FBI told him it is "leaning more toward the possibility that it was a bomb that caused the plane to explode."

"They are still investigating all other possibilities," he added. White House spokesman Mike McCurry said there had been "a variety of calls" claiming responsibility for the crash, but their



US Coast Guard officers unload bodies from a patrol boat at the Moriches Coast Guard Station yesterday following the crash of TWA Flight 800 off the southern coast of Long Island.

credibility was doubtful.

Flight 800, a 25-year-old Boeing 747 bound for Paris's Charles de Gaulle Airport from Kennedy Airport, exploded about 8:45 p.m. and plunged into the ocean off Fire Island, a narrow strip of land that runs parallel to Long Island. It fell in 36-meter deep water about 64 kilometers east of New York.

One of the plane's two "black boxes" had been recovered, said Congressman Michael Forbes of Long Island. Federal investigators were not immediately available for comment, and Forbes did not know if the box was the voice or data recorder.

burned for hours, as helicopters hovered. A C-130 transport plane circled, dropping parachute flares to illuminate the scene. Overnight, rescuers used infrared goggles to help spot bodies.

Fresh crews were brought in at daybreak. By 8 a.m., rescuers had pulled more than 100 bodies from the water, some of them burned beyond recognition.

With a water temperature of 18 C and an air temperature of 23 C, officials estimated that survival would not be possible much beyond late yesterday morning.

Among those booked on the flight was a group of 16 students and five adults from a

## One Israeli victim identified

HAIM SHAPIRO and Itim

AN Israeli victim of the TWA plane explosion was identified last night as 29-year-old Gadi Notis of Ra'anana.

Notis, who worked for a New York investment house, took the flight to Paris with several other investors to close a deal there. Yesterday morning, his parents became concerned when they did not hear of his arrival. His colleagues contacted a Paris hotel where he was to stay, and were told he had not arrived. Notis's name was not found in a check of passenger lists on all other flights to Paris.

Ya'acov Notis said by late yesterday afternoon he had received no official word from TWA that Gadi was among the passengers. He contacted TWA in Israel and the US, and the Foreign Ministry, and then foreign television and correspondents in an attempt to get verification. The Notis's said their calls were constantly transferred throughout the day.

Finally at 7 p.m., the Foreign Ministry officially informed them that Gadi was on the passenger list.

## Weizman pardons two Palestinian women

At the same time, Weizman shortened the sentences of four Jews convicted of murdering Arabs.

The women are serving long jail terms for involvement in killing Israelis.

The previous government had promised Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat that all 36 Palestinian women prisoners would be freed.

However, Weizman then refused to pardon the two women - Anam Jabari, sentenced to 12 years as a minor for murdering a yeshiva student in Jerusalem's Sacher Park eight years ago, and Mai Aljein, who stabbed a yeshiva

STOCKS rose on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday for the first time in 11 sessions.

Table with 3 columns: SHABBAT, BEGINS, ENDS. Rows for Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beer Sheva, Eilat.

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# Germans identify MIAs' remains IDF details easing of closure

BEIRUT (AP) — German security officials yesterday positively identified the skeletons of Israeli soldiers Rahamim Alsheikh and Yosef Fink and agreement was reached on a list of Hizbullah prisoners to be exchanged for the remains of the two soldiers killed in Lebanon a decade ago, government sources reported.

They said German mediator Bernd Schmidbauer was due to travel from Damascus to Beirut today to set the operation in motion in cooperation with Lebanese

Interior Minister Michel Murr.

The German team, including a coroner and a forensic expert, arrived in Beirut aboard a chartered jetliner Wednesday as Schmidbauer was negotiating in Damascus final details of the swap with representatives of Hizbullah and Lebanese and Syrian officials.

The dispute over the numbers of Moslems to be exchanged remains unresolved, the Lebanese sources said. But they said they expect Schmidbauer to obtain final figures

when he travels to Jerusalem to deliver the findings of the forensic examination.

Hizbullah says it wants Israel to hand back the remains of some 100 gunmen killed in south Lebanon over the past 10 years in addition to the 200 prisoners, most of whom are held in the village of Khiam in the security zone.

Yesterday, IDF troops continued to exhume bodies of Hizbullah dead. Dozens of bodies have been removed from the cemetery at Kibbutz Gadot on the banks of the Jordan River.

THE IDF last night detailed steps to ease the five-month-old closure of the territories, announcing that 10,000 more Palestinian laborers would be allowed into Israel and other moves aimed at enhancing the dire economic situation there.

The announcement followed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's visit to Cairo, where he said Israel had planned to lift

**ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

some restrictions that have kept tens of thousands of Palestinian workers from jobs in Israel.

According to the IDF, another 10,000 laborers — over 29 and married — are to be added to the 25,000 already permitted to work in Israel.

Another 500 laborers are to be allowed in to the Erez industrial

zone, provided they are at least 25 and married, the army said. It added that 350 more entry permits are also to be handed out to merchants and that 250 medical personnel are to be allowed to enter Israel.

An additional 10 ambulances are to be allowed to cross into Israel, and the IDF plans to ease the movement of trucks from the territories.

## Crash victims' relatives put on hold

**MARILYN HENRY**  
NEW YORK

ON a picture-perfect summer day, recovery teams used hooks, hands, and fishing nets to pull corpses and body parts from the Atlantic Ocean off Long Island.

Debris from the horror of the night before, when TWA Flight 800 appeared to explode in the air before plunging into the ocean, was scattered over 25 square miles.

Some of it was still smoldering 18 hours later, as it bobbed gently in the water and brilliantly reflected the sunlight. Teams led by the US Coast Guard continued the search throughout the day for the remains of the 228 passengers and crew aboard the Paris-bound flight.

Sometime around midday, the name of the mission subtly changed from "rescue" to "recovery," in a tacit acknowledgement that there were no survivors.

Sections of the beach near the summer resort area of the Hamptons, on the southeastern end of the island, were cordoned off, in the event bodies and debris wash in with the tide. The identities of the passengers were not released, pending notification of relatives. Television networks fielded calls from families look-

ing for information.

David O'Brien was distraught that he could not get news about his son. He called numerous government agencies, then the airport police. Then he called a television station. "I gave them reports on what my son was wearing," O'Brien told one interviewer. He could not reach anyone at TWA. "I was on hold for two-and-a-half hours," he said.

After visiting the relatives of 35 passengers and crew members, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani called TWA management "abysmal and horrible." The families were filled with questions about the crash, the mayor said early yesterday, but "We can't find anyone to communicate with."

TWA's middle- and upper-management have been working nonstop since notification of this incident and we want to be responsive as long as we can," TWA spokesman John McDonald said at corporate headquarters in St. Louis. "Therefore, we are rotating people to make sure there are people available to deal with the passengers and families involved."

(Continued on Page 15)

## Netanyahu, Mubarak discuss interests, not ideology

'Egyptian president believes what PM says'

**BACKGROUND**  
**STEVE RODAN / CAIRO**

FOR Israeli officials, the meeting of Binyamin Netanyahu and Hosni Mubarak resembled the fable of the rabbi and the poor woman.

The poor woman complained to the rabbi that her home was cramped. The rabbi ordered the woman to stuff all her animals and belongings inside her house. Then, just when she was about to burst into tears, the rabbi told her to take everything outside.

The relief the woman felt, officials said, was similar to that Mubarak experienced when he met Netanyahu.

"Mubarak was relieved because the Arab world was thinking and saying that Netanyahu would stop everything," a government source said. "That was the main concern."

Officials said Mubarak learned otherwise on Wednesday, when the prime minister's senior foreign policy adviser, Dore Gold, flew to Cairo and met with Mubarak's adviser, Osama Baz. The two men worked on an agenda for the talks and Gold outlined Netanyahu's positions on the Middle East negotiations.

It took a lot of preparatory work," an aide to the prime minister said. "It's not like you come into Cairo and talk over a cup of coffee."

Mubarak's other concern was Netanyahu's style. Unlike many Arab leaders, Mubarak eschews flowery language and demands straight talk. The Egyptian president was worried that he was going to get a lecture from the prime minister that would echo those heard from previous Likud heads of government.

But Mubarak's approach suited Netanyahu just fine. "The talk wasn't over ideology, but over interests," an Israeli official said. "With ideology, you can't bridge anything. But with interests you can find points of common ground."

Aides to Netanyahu insist the prime minister did not give anything away in his one-on-one session with Mubarak. Netanyahu assured the Egyptian president that the issues concerning the IDF

redeployment in Hebron are being resolved and Mubarak had some suggestions of his own. The Israeli leader assured his Egyptian counterpart that his government would enter final status talks with the Palestinians.

"The positions didn't change after the visit," an aide said. "But Mubarak now believes what Netanyahu says."

Officials hope the meeting would lead to progress in Israel's efforts to establish relations with the Arab world. Foreign Minister David Levy is planning to meet Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat next week.

That will be followed by a visit by Netanyahu to Amman to meet with Jordan's King Hussein. At the same time, Foreign Ministry officials will try to renew efforts to establish diplomatic missions in the Gulf and Maghreb states, particularly Qatar.

"Until now, none of the Arab countries has cancelled any agreement but since the elections everything has been put on hold," an official said. "We see that as an achievement in itself. With meetings with the Palestinians and Egyptians under our belt, we hope things will improve."

## Mubarak meets the press

**REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK**  
**STEVE RODAN / CAIRO**

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak appeared tired and tense at the news conference that followed his long talk with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday morning.

That was before lunch. Then Mubarak wanted another crack at the media. This time, it would be just him and Israeli-based reporters. He sat Netanyahu off in a military helicopter on a high-flying tour of the pyramids, then entered the room full of waiting reporters and shook everybody's hand.

He wanted to discard English and the television cameras. "If you're in Israel, you should speak Arabic," he said. "If you want the cameras, I will speak guardedly. If you don't have them, I can be freer."

The reporters agreed to a bit of both, and Mubarak fielded questions from reporters skeptical that he had found a common language with Netanyahu, whom Cairo newspapers are calling "Hitler."

Mubarak, who will visit Washington later this month, acknowledged that he, too, had been skeptical. "I personally heard his speeches in the Knesset and Congress and his press conference," he said. "I couldn't understand how we could proceed forward. Were those views he was

presenting definitely going to happen or did he have another concept?"

"When I met him today, I had a clear picture of what could happen, a clear picture of the peace process. It relaxed the whole country, public opinion mainly. You have to be very careful of public opinion. You have to be very careful of what you say to Arabs."

"You can give a speech in the US. You can address the Congress. This may not be satisfactory to the Arabs. So you have to be very careful with the Arabs."

Mubarak said Netanyahu's political affiliation has no bearing on his expectations. "I have big hopes," he said. "We had a peace with the Likud. [The return of] Tabu was with Labor, and we will end with the Likud. I don't deal with the parties. I deal with the State of Israel."

He said he shares Netanyahu's concern about terrorism. But he suggested that he has a different approach. While the Israelis want to organize a regional battle against terrorism now, Egypt wants to exploit the peace process to battle violence and instability.

"We have to understand that comprehensive peace will achieve victory over terrorism and violence," he said.



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### Swiss Ambassador Visits Netanya's Laniado

The Swiss Ambassador to Israel, M. Pierre Monod, accompanied by his wife, Ninette, on his first official visit since presenting his credentials last week, joined Mr. Marcel Hess, a member of the Canton Parliament of Basel, on a tour of Netanya's Laniado Hospital where Mr. Hess has initiated a fund for the long-awaited Orthopedic / Trauma Unit.

*Pictured from right to left: The Ambassador M. Monod, Dr. Meir Weissbrod, Director of Neonatology, Chaim Richler, Director of Public Relations*

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GLATT KOSHER

### Four die in head-on crash

FOUR persons were killed early yesterday morning and a fifth was seriously injured when a truck and car collided head-on at the entrance to Safed. Their names were not released by press time.

Police are investigating the cause of the crash. (Tim)

### Winning numbers and cards

In last night's Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 323939 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 246627 won a car.

Ticket numbers 22174, 690976, 089574, 420 NIS 5,000. Tickets in 11363, 10526, 58152, 77042, 42780, 19823, 03876, 91653, 91708, 57736, 32741 4L, 48051, 80941 and 95289 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 959, 868, 190, and 452 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 05, 06, 93, 38 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 06 and 55 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 4 and 7 won NIS 10.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the eight of spades, seven of hearts, queen of diamonds, and king of clubs.

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Ch. 11/15/96

### Suissa accused of violating Har Homa ban

BILL HUTMAN

INTERIOR Minister Eli Suissa allegedly violated a court ban on holding a hearing on the controversial Har Homa housing plan in March while serving as Jerusalem District Planning Committee chairman.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa allegedly violated a court ban on holding a hearing on the controversial Har Homa housing plan in March while serving as Jerusalem District Planning Committee chairman.

### MKs divided on Hebron redeployment

LIAT COLLINS

HEBRON, the scene of a large number of fact-finding tours lately, was visited yesterday by six members of the Knesset Interior Committee.

Tarif told reporters there is no choice but to go ahead with the IDF redeployment, despite existing and possible future security problems.

rule out participating in protests against the government if the withdrawal plans are implemented.

### Insurance officials arrested for huge fraud

BILL HUTMAN and Jerusalem Post Staff

THREE major players in the nation's insurance industry allegedly executed a multi-million shekel insurance fraud scam, investigators said yesterday after a court ban was lifted on publication of the probe.

They are suspected of issuing false insurance policies to several kibbutzim - including Afikim, Hagoshrim, Beit Hashita, and Yagur - without demanding payment, in order to inflate their record books.

### Sarid petitions Court to keep issuing gas masks

EVELYN GORDON

MK Yossi Sarid (Meretz) petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against the government's decision to stop distributing gas masks.

### 'Yediot' undercover study faults security on buses

MARGOT DUDKEVICH

SERIOUS security breaches in public transportation have been found in an undercover investigation carried out by Yediot Tikshoret reporters.

reporter boarded the bus and sat several seats behind to see if the driver - or one of the guards of the special public transportation security division set up after a wave of bus bombings at the beginning of the year - noticed the unattended bag.

The report also stated that, on at least two occasions, bus drivers did not check the special luggage section on the side of the bus, even though regulations require all drivers to check it regularly.

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## Astute hospitality

JAY BUSHINSKY

**T**O PARAPHRASE a common Hebrew saying, words are one thing, deeds another. That seems highly applicable to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's official visit to Egypt yesterday and his projected visit to Jordan next week.

Anyone who's been taking the vitriol pouring from the editorial and political columns of the Arab press seriously might stop and wonder at a man who has been so consistently depicted as an enemy of regional peace being invited to the presidential and royal palaces of Cairo and Amman.

And the initiative for these exercises in politically astute hospitality came not after behind-the-scenes wheeling and dealing by Israel's envoys to the two Arab capitals, but from the respective hosts, President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein.

Netanyahu confirmed this at a news conference convened at Ben-Gurion Airport upon his return from the US.

"Both trips were decided on the day I was elected," he said. "I received phone calls from President Mubarak and King Hussein. They both invited me. I said that I'd be happy to take them up on their invitations, but that I would first go to Washington. I went to Washington. Now I am taking them up on their invitations."

He also criticized the onslaught against him that has dominated the Egyptian and Syrian press, as well as newspapers elsewhere in the Arab world.

"There is rhetoric and there is reality," Netanyahu said. "I suggest to the Arab leaders to lay off the rhetoric and get back to the reality on the ground. There is a new government, and it is ready to advance together with you toward peace. I suggest that you concentrate more on this and less on verbiage."

Underlying this barbed comment was the awareness that the Arab news media are controlled by the Arab regimes and manipulated by them for political or propaganda objectives.

Mubarak and Hussein evidently

understand — much better than the editorial writers of *The New York Times* or the State Department officials who evidently inspire them — not only that Netanyahu is Israel's elected leader, but that it is the better part of wisdom to exchange views with him rather than dismissing him as an incorrigible extremist.

Had Netanyahu implied that he

**Mubarak and Hussein understand that it is the better part of wisdom to meet and talk with Netanyahu**

would not uphold the previous government's commitment to redeploy (a euphemism for withdraw) its troops away from Hebron, as deduced by the *Times*, Mubarak and Hussein might have rescinded their invitations. But he didn't — and they didn't.

Nor is there any basis to contend, as does the *Times*, that Netanyahu wants to prolong the economically-crippling closure of the autonomous Gaza Strip and West Bank.

On the contrary, not only is he seeking ways to lift the closure, but he is also trying to avoid the ethnic separation between Israelis and Palestinians advocated by the former Labor-Meretz coalition in the name of national security.

IT WOULD be quite disingenuous to argue that curtailment or cancellation of the closure imposed after the recent spate of suicide bombings does not carry a substantial risk.

That is why it is so difficult to understand how an American editorial writer can muster the verbal

audacity to say that the closure "is causing great [economic] suffering while serving no evident security purpose."

However imperfect the closure may be, and no matter how advisable it might be to lift it, the *Times* cannot allege that Israel (under Labor-Meretz and now under the Likud) was "unwise to needlessly antagonize the Palestinian population over essential nonpolitical issues of daily life like the blockade of West Bank and Gaza Strip communities."

The Israeli press is not immune to unfair, if not totally preposterous, criticism of Netanyahu either.

Writing in *Ha'aretz* Guy Bechor, an Arab affairs analyst, assailed the premier for attributing the difficulties in achieving peace with the Arab states to the fact that none of them are democracies and none have commendable human rights records.

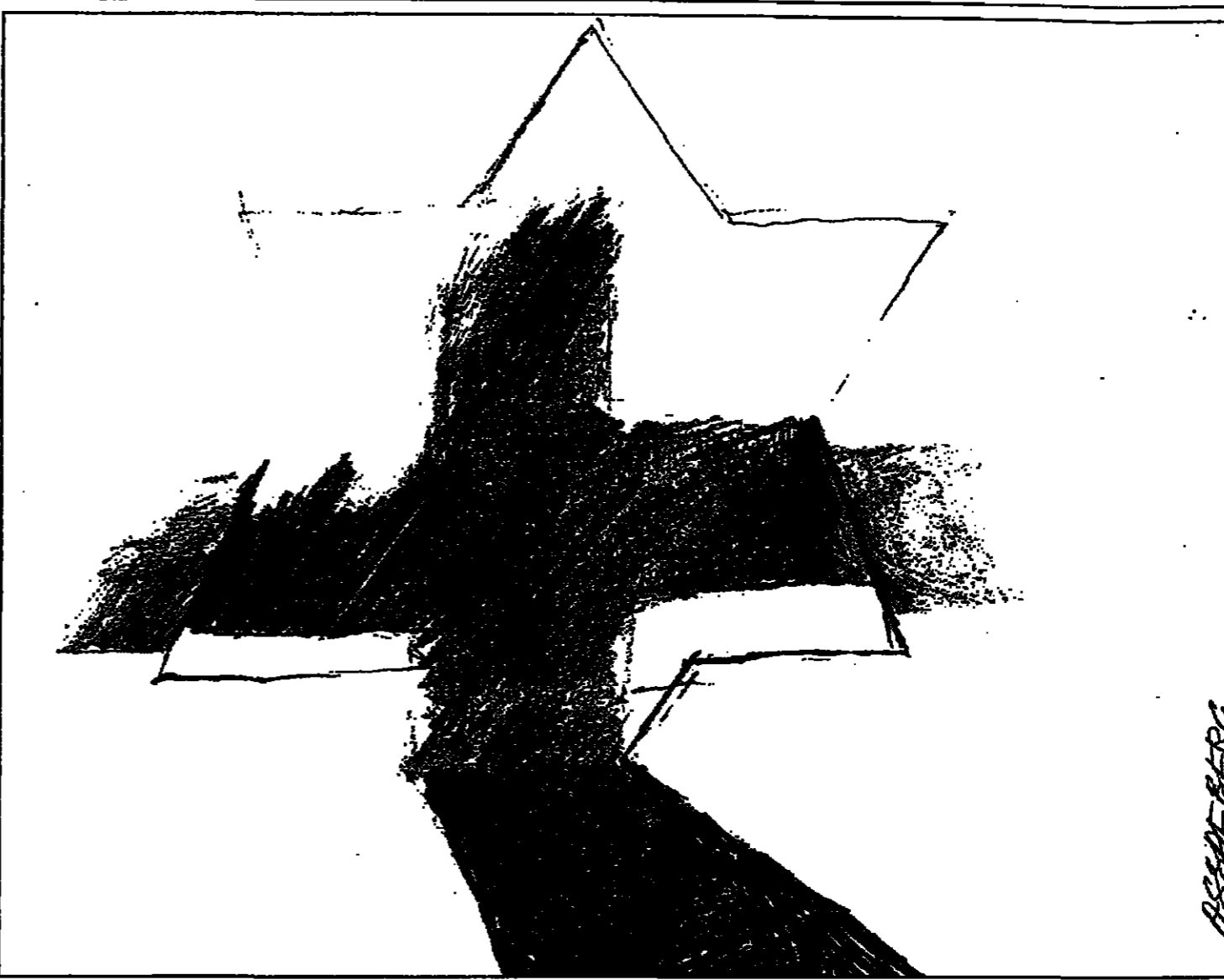
"Netanyahu's approach changes the balance of power in the region," he wrote. "While the previous Israeli government related to the Arab world's regimes as allies in the struggle against militant Islamists, Netanyahu presents Israel as being in an opposing position."

A local Palestinian journalist dismissed this assessment saying that the prime minister may have upset the Arab heads of state, but he certainly won points with their citizens. "We want democracy just like the rest of mankind."

There is a certain chronological imbalance: Mubarak has been Egypt's president for the past 15 years; Hussein has been Jordan's king for the past 43 years; Netanyahu has been Israel's prime minister for the past month.

These time frames also have something to do with democracy. Certainly they indicate which of the three leaders is closest to his nation's political state of mind — a fact the two Arab leaders evidently appreciate, and one the *New York Times* and *Ha'aretz* ought to respect as well.

The writer is with The Chicago-Sun Times.



## It's offensive, ignoble and ugly

LEONARD GARMENT

**R**ECENTLY in New Orleans the 14,000 delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution calling for a major campaign to convert American Jews to Christianity. The Baptists also appointed a missionary to take charge of the conversion operations, thus supplementing rhetoric with organizational muscle.

The resolution is the latest in a centuries-long line of conversion efforts whose history is so distasteful as to make the Baptists' action profoundly offensive.

Two Jewish interfaith leaders have reacted properly. Rabbi A. James Rudin of the American Jewish Committee was quoted as having called the resolution a "great setback." Rabbi Leon Klenicki of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said it made him "very sad," going so far as to add that in light of the Holocaust it would be more appropriate for the Baptists to "talk about a mission to the Christians."

But some reactions have been muted. Privately, prominent Jews I asked about the resolution said they hadn't thought much about it, or that they were used to this sort of thing, or that they would trust the free market in religious ideas to prevent anything bad from happening.

When I talked about the resolution with several Christians who are friendly to Jewish concerns, they did not immediately see the problem.

They reacted to the exhortation as an expression of freedom of speech or as a desire to share the great gift of one's faith. The farthest thing from their minds was associating conversion with animosity or coercive actions toward Jews.

Yet, historically, both the animus and the coercion have been companions of conversionism.

The notion of a special need to convert Jews to Christianity is as old as Christianity itself. In the simple conversionist view, Christianity is the natural, necessary culmination of Jewish history. It makes Judaism unnecessary and obsolete.

The persistence of Jews who choose to remain Jews poses a challenge to this idea of inevitability.

Thus, the argument goes, intensive conversion efforts must be made. The Baptists resolution stands in this tradition.

It doesn't, however, declare that the US's growing Moslem population is in special need of spiritual improvement. Only the Jews merit this honor.

Historically, there has almost invariably been an unpleasant corollary to the conversionist case. If all arguments have been made, and the most powerful and manifestly persuasive appeals to reason have been rejected, the Jews doing the rejecting must be perverse, indeed. Their bad character deserves bad treatment — sometimes forced conversion, fre-

quently worse. St. Paul, Jewish himself, became exasperated by his difficulties in converting fellow Jews. European Catholicism has the Spanish Inquisition to show as an end product of this cast of mind.

Perhaps the most illustrative and consequential conversion events involved Martin Luther, the founder

of German Protestantism. He began his career with a benign attitude toward the German Jews and confidently set out to convert them.

When he failed, friendliness turned to hatred. Luther wrote that the Jews' rejection of salvation and adherence to error could be explained only as demonic and incorrigible evil.

In a famous pamphlet entitled *The Jews and Their Lies*, he described Jews as "children of the devil." He urged

his followers to burn synagogues and Jewish homes. "It is our fault," he wrote, "that we... do not slay them."

In the '30s Julius Streicher, editor of *Der Sturmer*, published choice passages from Luther's missive to encourage German Christians to complete the unfinished task.

Today's Lutheran Church has

renounced this tradition of church hostility toward the Jews.

RENUNCIATIONS of systematic conversion have not come about because of sentimentality. Rather, Christian leaders see that conversionism bespeaks condescension and contempt.

Aggressive evangelism aimed at Jews may seem relatively harmless in a society like ours, which is committed to tolerance. But in the future, here and elsewhere, convictions about others' perceived religious inferiority can easily turn into something ugly. We know this from history.

When Pope John Paul announced plans for the third Christian millennium, he remarked that repentance for Christian hostility toward the Jews would be 1,000 years' work.

Baptists have an honorable history when it comes to resisting coercive or overweening religious zeal. It would be appropriate for them to join the Pope in his task rather than act in a way that reminds Jews how necessary his enterprise is.

The writer is a lawyer. (Courtesy of the New York Times)

## Political no-man's-land

**T**HE political landscape has changed. Leadership and party have parted ways.

After his electoral defeat, Labor is a party without a leader. After his election victory, Binyamin Netanyahu is a leader without a party.

He and Shimon Peres must share a sense of loneliness.

For Peres, it is the product of a feeling of betrayal, as former political allies and close advisers such as Haim Zadok and Prof. Yehzekel Dror call on him to face the final challenge of departure from political life.

If Peres hangs on to his tenuous role as party chairman, it is not because he senses the strength of his control of the Labor Party, but only because he senses the weakness of Netanyahu's in the Likud.

Peres has no realistic hope of being able to determine Labor's future leadership. The only real power he still holds is the ability to determine when the succession will take place.

This is crucial, as long as there is a chance of a return to power in a unity government. As a leader without a future, Peres is an attractive partner. His political weakness is terminal. He is no real threat. In contrast, his successor will be Labor's candidate in the next general election.

In putting together his government, Netanyahu has hardly displayed a readiness to promote rivals in his own party. He would certainly be unlikely to promote a guaranteed competitor in the opposition. Once the succession in Labor's leadership takes place, the chances of a unity government will radically diminish.

Whether or not a Peres camp still exists, there certainly has been one within the Labor Party. There has never been a Netanyahu camp within the Likud. Netanyahu won the party leadership. He did not capture the party.

In this negative sense, there is a similarity to the position of an American president. In the US, the chief of state is the acknowledged party leader. However, as a

market, Netanyahu has also compromised on a matter of principle, but this is probably less of a worry for him.

From the political point of view, the stock market crisis is only an opening skirmish. A major battle is in the offing over the proposed budget cuts. There is a fundamental conflict between the economic liberalism that Meridor represents and the economic populism of David Levy's Geshet faction.

Power and policy will be joined in open combat.

On the economic liberalism of the free market, Meridor is already making his initial retreat in the stock market crisis. Will he also be prepared to compromise when it comes to the political liberalism of the rule of law?

This is the theme common to the dispute over the closing of Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat and the dispute over the designation of Shas's Rafael Pinhasi, the lifting of whose parliamentary immunity has been requested by the attorney-general, as chairman of the Knesset House Committee, which rules on immunity cases. In both cases, the target will be the authority of the Supreme Court.

On this issue, Netanyahu has already taken sides. Ya'acov Ne'eman, his personal choice for justice minister, who is identified with the National Religious Party and has strong personal ties with the Shas leadership, is an opponent of judicial activism in the political arena. Will Netanyahu support him, at the cost of a fight within his own party?

At that point, the question of a national unity government becomes relevant. Netanyahu will compromise on those issues that least threaten his own political power. Paradoxically, these may prove to be related to the peace process, not to economic liberalism or the authority of the High Court.

It will be easier for Netanyahu to compromise with Peres than with his rivals within his own party.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

consequence of the American federal system, the local and state organizational base of the party is beyond his control.

In Israel there is no federal system of government, but the Likud, as a party, is a federation of independent sources of power. The loyalty of the party activists is, first of all, to their party faction.

The Likud, in the aggregate, can perform satisfactorily as a vehicle

**It's an odd situation when you have a leader without a party and a party without a leader**

to achieve power. Once in power, however, as the factions pull in different directions, it does badly as a vehicle of policy.

THIS, of course, has its advantages. If Netanyahu controlled the Likud, Bank of Israel Governor Ya'acov Frenkel would be finance minister today. Netanyahu told the Congress in Washington that there was no Hebrew word for "deregulation," but he promised that there would be before his term of office was up. It took barely a week to move from deregulation to market safety nets. He needs another one for Frenkel.

Whatever the outcome of the present stock market crisis, the political consequences for Netanyahu are significant. He conferred on Frenkel his personal support, one of the few political assets that derive from the popular election of the prime minister. A defeat for Frenkel is a blow to the prestige of the prime minister.

The last thing Netanyahu wants is for Dan Meridor, an unquestioned rival, to be in undisputed control of the Treasury. By intervening in the workings of the free

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July 19, 1996

# NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, July 19, 1996

7

## IDF ponders how to deal with PA

Researchers and officers say the IDF should balance the political system in negotiations, writes Steve Rodan

JUST last year, Uzi Dayan was foreign minister Shimon Peres's favorite when he was head of IDF Planning and a key player in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and forging the resulting agreements on redeployment.

As he assumed his new job as head of IDF Central Command, Dayan recalls the parting words of his predecessor, Maj.-Gen. Ian Biran: "Now, you can have the broth that you cooked."

Today, Peres and his government are gone and Dayan is left with a command that is facing an increasingly restless Palestinian security force. As senior officers put it, the major-general has forged a new set of priorities.

"As Peres's man in the negotiations, Dayan shared the idea that the negotiations should be advanced," one IDF source says. "Now, as head of central command, he is demonstrating a much more deliberate approach."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu hasn't asked yet, but the IDF in the post-Labor government era has a lot to say about how the Palestinian-Israeli talks should proceed. Military sources say the general staff shares Netanyahu's cautious approach but doesn't want an end to the negotiations or a halt in the redeployment agreed to by Peres.

"The IDF's role has been to balance the political system," says Maj.-Gen. (res.) Avraham Rotem, now a senior researcher at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies. "During the previous government, the IDF served as a brake so it shouldn't move too quickly with the peace process. Now, the IDF is doing the same thing with the new government, but from the opposite direction."

Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak played a major role in the early negotiations with the Palestinians. Dayan took over in the later stages. Both men are said to recognize the value of an agreement with the Palestinians, as flawed as they might think it to be.

"I took a while for the IDF to come to terms with Oslo," a senior officer says. "Now that we have come to grips with it, we don't want to throw it all away."

With IDF plans in the territories built around the prospect of Palestinian cooperation, senior military officers want a viable PA. In recommendations to the

Defense Ministry, the army has proposed increasing the number of Palestinian laborers allowed to work in Israel by up to 60,000. Quietly, the IDF says the closure has been ineffective, particularly around Jerusalem, where thousands of Palestinians illegally enter the city to find work. Those caught are quickly released, both for legal reasons as well as for a lack of prison space.

The IDF has also recommended increasing the number of Palestinian trucks and taxis allowed in Israel, as well as issuing more permits for Palestinians to seek medical treatment in the country.

THE COMMITMENT to future implementation of the accords is not shared, however, by junior officers, particularly those in the field. At staff meetings, many of them are recommending that measures such as redeployment be delayed for as long as possible.

Both senior and junior officers agree that Netanyahu should push the Palestinians to live up to their agreements. Senior officers, including Dayan, feel that the Palestinian Authority shares the assessment that the Palestinians try at every turn to ignore or bend the rules of conduct in the territories.

For the IDF, the thousands of PA security men brandishing sub-machine guns and supported by armored personnel carriers and a growing fleet of helicopters have become a force to reckon with. The fear is not that the estimated 50,000 Palestinian gunmen, including PA officers and terrorists - will invade Israel. Rather, the IDF is concerned that if Israel is attacked by an Arab state, the PA will launch hit-and-run attacks in the territories with the aim to strike at settlements and slow down Israeli mobilization.

"For years, our threat assessment has been of a Jordanian attack," a senior officer says. "Now, peace with Jordan has changed that assessment and the focus is on the thousands of Palestinian soldiers located right next to us."

Take terrorism. Senior IDF officers acknowledge that PA head Yasser Arafat launched a serious drive against Hamas terrorists following a wave of bus bombings in Israel in March. But within weeks, they say, the effort began to wane.

Today, once again, they say,



Arafat is releasing Hamas suspects and slowing the offensive against Islamic militants. At the same time, the PA is doing nothing to capture members of terrorist cells believed to be operating against the IDF.

One example: A squad of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has been operating for about eight months in Bethlehem's Dehaishe refugee camp. IDF sources say the gang has shot several times at the Israeli police jeep participating in the joint patrol with the Palestinians. So far, the PA has not arrested anybody.

Another example: A Hamas gang operating in the Halhoul area, north of Hebron, is believed to be responsible for several drive-by shootings that killed four

Israelis in the last year. Once again, the IDF says the PA has not made strenuous efforts to capture the gunmen.

Instead, military sources say, the PA security force is acting against suspected Israeli collaborators. This has hurt Israeli intelligence efforts in foiling the plans and discovering the location of terrorists.

"There are two kinds of cases," an IDF source says. "In one type, we know where the terrorists are and tell the PA and nothing gets done. In the second case, we don't know because we don't have sufficient intelligence."

The IDF also wants to crack down on what it asserts are widespread Palestinian violations in Area B, the part of Judea and Samaria where the PA has only

"Not only hasn't he decided yet on anything," a government source says, "he even hasn't expressed his views on these issues."

STILL, THE IDF isn't a monolith. Senior officers disagree over when the army should redeploy in Hebron. Some, like Shahak and Dayan, who opposed a redeployment prior to the Israeli elections, now want the IDF to move quickly to encourage the PA to take over the city and fight terrorism. Other officers want the IDF to wait and flush out Hamas terrorists before the PA moves in and provides them with another asylum.

Military sources describe this as the classic case of the difference between the officer in headquarters armed with his plans and the field officer who learns the situation through daily experience with the Palestinians.

"The spillover of the argument on the level of commanders reveals the crisis of confidence between the two sides," writes an officer identified only as Lt.-Col. Kobi in the IDF magazine *Ma'arachot*. "IDF commanders have a difficult time accepting the Palestinian withdrawal from agreements achieved and their apparent insensitivity to the new security situation."

But both groups of officers agree that Hebron has become a hotbed of Hamas terrorism waiting to explode. Shahak and Dayan, IDF sources say, want the Netanyahu government to make redeployment in the city linked to a PA offensive against terrorists in the area.

"Hamas is lying low but it is constantly testing us in the field," a security source says.

"Their activists are studying our responses so when they are ordered to attack they will be effective."

Rotem, the Besa Center researcher, says the key figure in translating the IDF recommendations into action will be Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

A member of the general staff and head of all three IDF area commands until last year, Mordechai knows virtually every senior and mid-ranking officer in the field.

The concern of those such as Shahak and Dayan is that Mordechai will ignore them and accept the recommendations of their subordinates on such issues as Hebron and further redeployment.

Rotem warns against considering such an approach in the interest of preserving the integrity of the general staff.

"There is no alternative to the work and planning of the general staff," he says. "The position of junior officers could be very respected, but their vision is limited. It doesn't mean that the junior officers aren't correct. But it does mean that the general staff can't be bypassed."

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**Amud Ha'eish - Pillar of Fire - Epitaph for Yitzhak Rabin (by invitation)**

**Sunday, July 28, 8:30 p.m.,**  
**Henry Crown, Jerusalem Theater**  
**Hallel Lirushalayim** - concert of traditional Hazzanut, featuring ten world-renowned Hazzanim, with the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra and Choir  
Menashe Lev-Ran, Conductor  
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**Tuesday, July 30, 8:30 p.m.,**  
**Sherover Hall, Jerusalem Theater**  
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July 19, 1996

Seasonal issues

The long hours of Shabbat in the summer months provide an opportunity for haredim to take to the streets with their demands, Haim Shapiro writes

Conflict on Rehov Bar-Ilan: Shabbat, but no shalom



Yekutieli: The road to a 'new Teheran'

BILL HUTMAN



Yekutieli: Miller has a list of 20 main roads to close.

JERUSALEM will be taking a major step toward becoming a 'new Teheran' if the city's haredim succeed in closing Bar-Ilan Street on Shabbat. That is the opinion of Yehuda Yekutieli, the Jerusalem councillor and Meretz faction leader in the city who, in the past decade, has led the battle of the city's secular residents against the demands of the haredim.

to the Middle Ages. "The question is whether we want to take a big step toward Teheran, or to continue in the direction of the Western world." In Yekutieli's view, closing Bar-Ilan Street would be a victory for religious fanaticism. As for the suggested prayer-times closure, he says at best this would leave the road open for only a few hours, and at worst it would be the first step towards the road's closure.

Miller: Jerusalem must remain holy

BILL HUTMAN



Miller: 'Evil' Yekutieli is creating tension.

THE haredi demand that Bar-Ilan Street be closed is spirited by the desire to ensure Jerusalem remain a "holy city," rather than just another city in the world plagued by crime and debauchery. That, according to Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Haim Miller, who heads the United Torah Judaism faction on the city council, sums up the haredi position on the controversy over whether the street should be closed on Shabbat.

SUMMER is the perfect time for haredi demonstrations, according to Prof. Menachem Friedman, an expert in haredi society. On Shabbat, there are the long hours after dinner, after the Shabbat nap, when everyone "parades" up and down the street. It is a time when everyone goes out, and if something is happening, everyone wants to see what is going on, says the Bar-Ilan University sociologist. But haredim don't always demonstrate in the summer; it only happens when there is an issue concerning the haredim in the public eye, he says.

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Jerusalem rs? NIDES Writings













Key Representative Rates

Table showing key representative rates including US dollar, Sterling, and Mark against NIS, along with an INFLATION table.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrial, DJ Total, NYSE Composite, and NYSE Midcap.

NYSE stocks

Table of NYSE stocks showing volume and price changes for various categories like Unchanged Advances and Declines.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei Average, Hang Seng, and Nikkei 225.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table of Israeli stocks in NY including AMEX, NYSE, and NASDAQ listings with price changes.

Source: Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 18-JUL-96)

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table of dollar crossrates for various currencies like Swiss Franc, German Mark, Japanese Yen, etc.

Libor rates

Table of Libor rates for various terms like 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Source: Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 18-JUL-96)

Foreign financial data courtesy of

CommStock Trading Ltd.

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INFLATION COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

Table of US commodities including Cocoa, Coffee, Sugar, Wheat, Soybeans, etc.

London commodities

Table of London commodities including Copper, Lead, Zinc, Nickel, etc.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metals including Gold, Silver, Platinum, etc.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures including Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

Source: Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 18-JUL-96)

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table header for Tel Aviv Stocks showing Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading.

Main table of Tel Aviv stocks with columns for Name, Price, Change, % Change, Volume, and % Volume.

Source: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various countries like London, Paris, Frankfurt, etc.

Market rebound backed by Wall Street

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET FELICE MARANZ



Two-Sided Index Maof Index

STOCKS rose for the first time in 11 sessions yesterday, led by Teva, Bank Hapoalim, and Koor. Investors will be looking next week toward reports from the provident funds...

Shares boosted by Greenspan speech

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuter) - European bourses closed firmer yesterday as Wall Street took heart from a speech by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warning of the dangers of inflation...

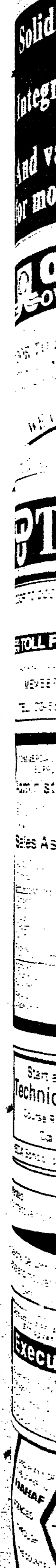
Stocks rally on Wall Street

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks rallied yesterday as the market continued to steady from this week's wild gyrations and central bank chairman Alan Greenspan soothed investor fears about inflation.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table of currency cross-rates for Mark, Sterling, Yen, Sfr, and FF against the Dollar.



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# Ministerial panel to discuss 'Norwegian law'

THE Ministerial Committee on Legislation is to meet today to discuss the so-called Norwegian law, which would require ministers to vacate their Knesset seats.

EVELYN GORDON

deputies - Rafael Eitan, David Levy, Zevulun Hammer, and Moshe Katsav - since the Basic Law: The Government requires these posts to be held by MKs.

who was not originally supposed to lose his Knesset seat under the law, said his party favors getting the extra seat.

## Police brace for Bar-Ilan unrest Court ruling on road closure expected next week

JERUSALEM police are ready for unrest at Rehov Bar-Ilan this weekend, despite the promise of most haredi leaders that there will be no protest until after the High Court rules on the issue.

separate protesters and haredim. The police force is to be beefed up beginning this evening, as haredim have demonstrated at Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat over the past weeks irrespective of whether there was a counter-demonstration.

make things quieter than they could have been," the officer said. Last Saturday, over a dozen haredim were detained during rioting at the thoroughfare, which runs to Jerusalem's northern neighborhoods through a haredi quarter.

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## Forum to discuss Eitan's immunity

THE Knesset House Committee will discuss on Monday Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair's request that it lift the immunity of Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan.



Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak chats with a girl wearing a Nabal beret during a visit yesterday to an IDF-run day camp for orphans and widows of fallen soldiers. Some 300 orphans aged 5-14 attend the camp. (IDF Spokesman)

## Peres will not put off Labor leadership race

LABOR Party chairman Shimon Peres announced yesterday he has no intention of postponing the election for the party leadership and is committed to the party rules, which require the contest to be held no later than next year.

Peres said he is looking into the possibility of setting up a shadow cabinet and examining, together with other party leaders, the British model.

Ephraim Oshaya, who initiated the meeting, is drumming up support to keep Peres at the party helm for two years, until after the Histadrut elections.

**WEATHER**

Jerusalem 21-31  
Tel Aviv 22-31  
Beersheba 22-33  
Haifa 25-31  
Tiberias 23-33  
Atlan 22-34  
Samaria 21-29  
Golan 19-30  
Dead Sea 25-30  
Eilat 12-41

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Slight drop in temperatures.  
Shabbat: No change.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

LOW	HI	WIND	SEA	CLIMATE	
Amsterdam	10	11	10	10	partly cloudy
Berlin	11	12	11	11	partly cloudy
Brussels	11	12	11	11	partly cloudy
Chicago	21	22	21	21	clear
Copenhagen	12	13	12	12	clear
Helsinki	12	13	12	12	clear
London	12	13	12	12	clear
Los Angeles	17	18	17	17	clear
Madrid	18	19	18	18	partly cloudy
Moscow	11	12	11	11	partly cloudy
New York	18	19	18	18	partly cloudy
Paris	12	13	12	12	clear
Rome	18	19	18	18	clear
Stockholm	12	13	12	12	clear
Tokyo	17	18	17	17	clear
Zurich	12	13	12	12	partly cloudy

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Netanya: 12 Kikar Hazaitzmit, Netanya, Tel: 09-344577, Fax: 09-519947, Attn: Mr. Bershon Houseman

## Study: Olmert underfunding haredim

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert has failed to keep his promise to bring funding for haredim up to par with that of non-haredim, a study has found.

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